



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

December 19, 1996

TO: Governor's Office, Glenn Marx, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. of Environmental Quality, 1520 E. Sixth Ave, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 Director's Office
 Parks Division
 Fisheries Division
 Wildlife Division
 Lands Section
 Design and Construction
 Legal Unit
 Ron Spoon
 Butte Area Resource Office
 Helena Area Resource Office
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 924, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin Co. Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Room 301, Bozeman, MT 59715
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana State Park Foundation, C/O Wayne Hirst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glenn Hockett, 745 Doane Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715
Wheat Montana, C/O Dean Folkvord, P.O. Box 647, Three Forks, MT 59752
Broadwater Co. Conservation District, Attn: Charlotte Lewis, Broadwater Co. Federal Building, Townsend, MT 59644
Broadwater Co. Commissioners, 515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached to this cover letter is the Decision Notice for an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a bridge across a Jefferson River slough channel upon a privately owned easement at the Drouillard Fishing Access Site in Gallatin County.

The decision has been made to proceed with the project as proposed in the EA.

Copies of the final EA can be obtained from Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406)994-4042.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

Decision Notice
For Drouillard Fishing Access Site Bridge Construction by Easement Holder
Jefferson River Slough, Gallatin County

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

December 19, 1996

Wheat Montana Farms, Inc., has expressed their intention to construct a bridge upon an easement across the Drouillard Fishing Access Site (FAS) to cross a slough channel of the Jefferson River. The purpose of the proposal is to provide year-round, safe, access to island property owned by Wheat Montana for various ranch operations, including winter cattle pasture. The benefit of the proposed action is to eliminate usage of a ford across the slough channel which generates sediment when vehicles drive through the channel. In addition, seasonal conditions such as ice formation and periods of high runoff prevent ranch access to this part of their property.


The department has evaluated the Environmental Assessment (EA) and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and has determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human or natural environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

FWP's decision is to approve bridge construction at the Drouillard FAS, in the identified easement location, pursuant to the plans as proposed, subject to the necessary federal, state and county permits.

The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Three, Bozeman, Montana. Please direct requests and questions to:

Stephen L. Lewis, Regional Supervisor
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-4042

Sincerely,


Stephen L. Lewis